

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02956 060827Z

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SUBJECT: JSP DISPUTE OVER NINAGAWA CANDIDACY CONTINUES

REF: TOKYO A157 MARCH 5, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: ON MARCH 5, JSP DIET MEMBER KAZUTAKA OHASHI ANNOUNCED CANDIDACY FOR KYTO GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. DECISION, TAKEN IN DIFIANCE OFJSP LEADERSHIP, INJECTED NEW LIFE INTO JSP INTERNAL DISPUTE OVER CANDIDACY OF GOVENOR TORAZO NINAGAWA. END SUMMARY

1. ON MARCH 5, KAZUTAKA OHASHI, JSP MEMBER OF HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE CANDIDATE IN APRIL KYTO GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. ACTION IN DIFIANCE OF OFFICIAL DECISION BY JSP LEADERSHIP TO SUPPORT INCUMBENT TORAZO NINAGAWA (77) IN BID FOR ELECTION TO SEVENTH TERM AS KYTO GOVENOR. OHASHI IS CHAIRMAN OF JSP KYTO BRANCH WHICH HAS BEEN FOCAL POINT OF LONG-STANDING INTERNAL JSP DSIPUTE OVER NINAGAWA CANDIDACY.

2. RECALCITRANT KYTO CHAPTER, SUPPORTED BY EDA FACTION, OPPOSES JCP-BACKED NINAGAWA ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAS DISPLAYED BOTH FAVORITISM TO SCP AND HOSTILITY TO JSP, AND CHAPTER HAS CONSISTENTLY URGED JSP LEADERSHIP TO REFRAIN FROM PARTICI-
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02956 060827Z

PATION IN JOINT JSP-JCP KYTO CAMPAIGN LIKE THOSE CONDUCTED

IN PAST. IN ADDITION TO FOCUSING ON IMMEDIATE KYTO PROBLEM, DEBATE HAS BECOME INTERWINED WITH BROADER QUESTION OF ADVISABILITY OF JSP COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS ANYWHERE. ISSUE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AT JANUARY JSP CONVENTION WHEN RIGHT-WING RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE NINAGAWA WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED (REFAIR) AND WHEN CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO BACK NINAGAWA. OHASHI MOVE, HOWEVER, HAS INJECTED NEW LIFE INTO DISPUTE.

3. IMMEDIATE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO OHASHI DECISION FOLLOWS. ON FEBRUARY 24, GOVENOR NINAGAWA MADE LONG-EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD AGAIN BE CANDIDATE. ON SAME DAY, KYTO JSP REAFFIRMED EARLIER DECISION TO DENY NINAGAWA SUPPORT. HOWEVER, CHAPTER ALSO YIELDED TO PRESSURE FROM PARTY LEADERSHIP AND WITHDREW ENDORESMENT OF OHASHI WHICH HAD BEEN CONFERRED LAST YEAR. THEN, IN QUICK FOLLOW-UP, KYTO JSP NAMED FORMER JSP DIET MEMBER HIDAZU YANAGIDA AS SUBSTITUTION CANDIDATE. YANAGIDA AT FIRST ACCEPTED NOMINATION AND THEN, ON MARCH 4 WITHDREW HIS NAME, CLAIMING THAT LOCAL CHAPTER WAS TOO DIVIDED TO PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN. JSP LEADERS IN TOKYO SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY ON SAME DAY TO OFFICIALLY ENDORSE AT LONG LAST NINAGAWA CANDIDACY (PENDING FOREGONE APPROVAL OF CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE). OHASHI COUNTERED BY REVIVING HIS OWN CANDIDACY, IMPLYING THAT HE WOULD RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT IF NECESSARY. IN RESPONSE, NARITA SAID THAT OHASHI WOULD BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF HE PERSISTED IN THIS COURSE OF ACTION, AND JSP SECRETARY GENERAL MASASHI ISHIBASHI EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE HE COULD PERSUADE OHASHI TO DROP OUT OF ELECTION RACE.

4. OTHER PARTIES, OF COURSE, HAVE KEPT CAREFUL WATCH ON PROGRESS OF JSP SQUABBLING. OPPOSED TO NINAGAWA, KOMEITO IS RECONSIDERING PLANS FOR ELECTORAL COOPERATION WITH JSP IN HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF DISPLEASURE OVER JSP ENDORSEMENT OF GOVENOR. AT SAME TIME IT HAS NOT INDICATED APPROVAL OF OHASHI MANEUVER AND HAS ADOPTED QTE NEUTRAL UNQTE STAND, WITH MEMBERS FREE TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE. DSP WILL SUPPORT OHASHI IF HE, IN FACT, RUNS. LDP EAGER TO ENCOURAGE SPLIT IN REFORMIST RANKS, HAS INDIATED IT WILL BACK OHASHI BECAUSE OF ANTI-NINAGAWA POSTURE. IF IHASHI BOWS OUT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 02956 060827Z

LDP GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE WILL BE UPPER HOUSE MEMBER YUKIO HAYASHIDA.

5. COMMENT: WHILE DENOUNCEMENT OF NINAGAWA FLAP IS NOT YET CLEAR, CONTROVERSY ALREADY APPEARS TO HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON JSP. PARTY HEADQUARTERS RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL KYTO CHAPTER IS IN SHAMBLES, AND EVEN IF OHASHI CAN BE DISSUADED FROM RUNNING FOR GOVERNORSHIP, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY

THAT OBSTREPEROUS LOCAL PARTY MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE
IN NINAGAWA CAMPAIGN. MOREOVER, NINAGAWA DECISION SEEMS
TO HAVE ELIMINATED KOMEITO AND DSP AS POSSIBLE JSP
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PARTNERS, LEAVING IT WITH
CHOICES OF SEEKING JCP COOPERATION OR GOING IT ALONE..
IN ANY CASE, GIVEN TWISTS AND TURNS SO FAR, KYTO SITUATION
WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING IN WEEKS AHEAD. RIGHT NOW, HOWEVER,
DEFEAT OF ANTI-NINAGAWA ELEMENTS AT JSP CONVENTION APPEARS TO
HAVE BEEN PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR NARITA LEADERSHIP GROUP.

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